



Growth Group Discussion Guide

"Growing Upward, Inward, Outward, and Forward"

For the Week of May 1, 2016



1 Corinthians 7

Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry. 2 But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. 3 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. 5 Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 6 I say this as a concession, not as a command. 7 I wish that all men were as I am. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

8 Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am. 9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion. 10 To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. 11 But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife.

12 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. 13 And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

15 But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. 16 How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?

17 Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. 18 Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commands is what counts. 20 Each one

Sermon Outline

- Beginning in chapter 7, Paul answers the questions the Corinthian church wrote to him about.
- Chapter 7 deals with marriage and addresses such topics as
 - Focusing on honoring God first and foremost
 - The ability for marriage to protect us from sin
 - Divorce
 - Marriages that become "unequally yoked"
 - Christianity's impact on our station in life

WELCOME – Getting to Know Each Other Better

- What are (or were) the primary qualities you look for in the opposite sex for dating/marriage purposes?

WORD - Applying Scripture to Our Lives

1. What is something that you felt God spoke to you about this week – either through your daily quiet time, this week's Scripture passage, or the sermon?
2. Why does Paul start off in verse 1 by saying that it's good not to marry? (see vss. 29-35)
3. What is his rationale for why one should get married in vss. 2-9?
4. What instructions do we see about divorce in vss. 10-11? Why do you think this is God's desire?
5. What is Paul's instruction in vss. 12-16? How can we apply this to our lives?
6. How should we respond if we have not lived in obedience to God's commands regarding marriage/relationships?

